GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2886
ANSWERED ON:09.08.2001
AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SCHEME
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether agricultural extension scheme is proved weak in agriculture;

(b) if so, whether only 25% of the agricultural technology is reaching to farmers; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to revitalize and strengthen the present village level workers and community block based on extension scheme?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD Y. NAIK)

(a): No, Sir.

(b) & (c): However, with a view to revitalize and strengthen Extension services the Ministryof Agriculture has been implementing the following schemes:

A. Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (DAC)

i. The Innovations in Technology Dissemination (ITD) component of World Bank fundedNational Agricultural Technology Project is being implemented on pilot basis in seven states namely Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa and Punjab and following activities are organized under the project:

? New institutional arrangements for technology dissemination are operationalised byestablishing Agricultural Technology Management Agencies (ATMAs) in four districtsof each Project State as autonomous bodies at district level representing stake holders responsible for technology dissemination.

? Block Technology Teams (BTTs) and Farmers Advisory Committees (FACs) atBlocks have been set-up and Farmers Interests Groups (FIGs) are being formed at village level to achieve integrated, farmer responsive and speedy technology dissemination.

? Strategic research and Extension plans (SREPs) have been developed after consultation with farmers, to reflect the felt-needs of the farming community, such that research and extension agendas are demand-driven in a `bottom-up` mode.

? Application of Information Technology including connectivity amongst various Project implementing Agencies is being promoted to improve information access to the farmers.

? Research-Extension-Farmer linkages are being strengthened to achieve adoption of latest technology.

? Private Extension Service Providers such as Non Governmental Organizations(NGOs), Farmers/Women Farmers Organizations are being supported to facilitate technology transfer to farmers.

ii. Strengthening of Extension Services in the States.

iii. Human Resource Development − Training Support to Agriculture.

iv. Information Support/Management Information System.

v. Women in Agriculture.

vi. Danish and Dutch assisted programmes on Extension and Training of Women in Agriculture.

vii. Food Security Programme funded by UNDP.

B. Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

The Extension Division of ICAR also plays an important role in technology assessment,refinement and its dissemination through training of farmers and in service extension personnel. Major schemes implemented are as follows:

i. As many as 261 Krishi Vigyan Kendras are imparting training and extension support.And in addition, 53 Zonal Agricultural Research Stations (ZRSs) have been re-mandated to take up the additional functions of KVKs in the districts where there is no KVK.

ii. Technology Assessment and Refinement through Institution Village Linkage Programme (IVLP).

iii. Establishment of 40 Agricultural Technology Information Centres (ATICs) in StateAgricultural Universities and ICAR Institutes to provide single window service to the farmers.

iv. 8 Trainers Training Centres (TTCs) are in operation for capacity building of Extension functionaries.